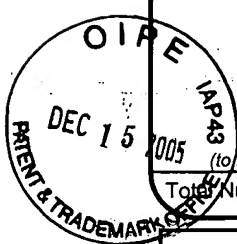


HW AP



TRANSMITTAL FORM <small>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</small>	Application Number	10/776,845	
	Filing Date	February 11, 2004	
	First Named Inventor	WOLLER, Ronald R., et al.	
	Art Unit	3634	
	Examiner Name	THOMPSON II, Hugh B.	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	21	Attorney Docket Number	8S08.1-190

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Return Postcard
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Remarks </div>		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm	GARDNER GROFF, P.C.		
Signature	<i>Michelle E. Kandcer</i>		
Printed Name	Michelle E. Kandcer		
Date	December 12, 2005	Reg. No.	54,207

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Art Unit: 3634

Examiner: THOMPSON II, Hugh B.

In Re Application of: WOLLER, Ronald R., et al)

Serial No.: 10/776,845)

Filed: February 11, 2004)

) Appeal No. _____

For: **FOOTHOLD FOR CLIMBING TREE STANDS**)

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 12, 2005

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

INTRODUCTION

This is an appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences of the final rejection of all claims in the subject application. This Brief is in furtherance of Applicants' Notice of Appeal under 37 C.F.R. § 41.31, filed October 11, 2005. No extension of time is believed to be due (as December 11, 2005 was a Sunday, and this brief is filed on the next business day). However, if any extension is required, please consider this a request therefore. The requisite fees for this Brief are enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1513.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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Alicia Howell

December 12, 2005

Date

1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the owner of the present application, Summit Treestands, LLC (the assignee of this application) of 715 Summit Drive, S.E., Decatur, Alabama 35601.

2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other known appeals or interferences that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

3. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 19, and 20 are pending in this application, and Claims 4, 12, and 18 are cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 19, and 20 stand finally rejected.

The appealed claims are Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 19, and 20.

4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment After Final pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116 was filed on October 11, 2005, to amend Claims 5 and 13 and to cancel Claims 4 and 12 in an effort to place the application in a better form for consideration on appeal. The Examiner entered this amendment on November 1, 2005, for purposes of appeal. However, Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 19, and 20 stand finally rejected.

5. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The claimed invention of independent Claim 1 relates generally to a foot engaging member (two of which are shown in the figures and identified by element numbers 100 and 101) for use with a climbing tree stand assembly (10) including a platform (11) and a support member (36, 37) attached to the platform, as depicted in Figures 1-4. The foot engaging member (100) includes a mounting portion 104 for attachment to the climbing tree stand assembly 10 and a rigid tail portion 105 having a curved elongate body 122 and extending away from the mounting portion. The foot engaging members are described in the specification on page 5, paragraph 20, line 11, through page 6, paragraph 25, line 24.

The claimed invention of dependent Claim 5 relates generally to the foot engaging member (100) as described with regard to Claim 1, wherein the foot engaging member comprises substantially rigid molded plastic. Such limitation is clearly described on page 5, paragraph 21, lines 20-21.

The claimed invention of independent Claim 8 relates generally to a climbing tree stand assembly (10), as shown in Figures 1-4. The climbing tree stand assembly (10) comprises a platform (11), a pair of support arms (36, 37) attached to the platform, and a pair of rigid footholds (100, 101) attached to the platform or the support arms and extending generally over the platform. The rigid footholds (100, 101) are described in the specification on page 5, paragraph 20, line 11, through page 6, paragraph 25, line 24.

The claimed invention of dependent Claim 13 relates generally to the climbing tree stand assembly (10) as described with regard to Claim 8, wherein the footholds (100, 101) each comprise a molded plastic body. Such limitation is clearly described on page 5, paragraph 21, lines 20-21.

The claimed invention of independent Claim 14 relates generally to an improvement for a climbing tree stand (10) of the type for use by a user and including a platform (11) and a pair of support arms (36, 37) attached to the platform. The improvement therein comprises a pair of rigid foothold devices (100, 101) attached to the platform (11) or the support arms (36, 37). The rigid foothold devices are described in the specification on page 5, paragraph 20, line 11, through page 6, paragraph 25, line 24.

The claimed invention of dependent Claim 19 relates generally to the improvement as described with regard to Claim 14, wherein the rigid foothold devices (100, 101) comprise a curved elongate body portion (105) and an attachment portion (104) for attaching to either the platform (11) or the support arms (36, 37). Furthermore, the rigid foothold devices (100, 101) comprise a molded plastic body. Such limitation is clearly described on page 5, paragraph 21, lines 20-21.

The claimed invention of dependent Claim 20 relates generally to the improvement as described with regard to Claim 14, wherein the rigid foothold devices (100, 101) comprise a curved elongate body portion (105) and an attachment portion (104) for attaching to either the platform (11) or the support arms (36, 37). Furthermore, the attachment portion (104) of the rigid foothold devices (100, 101) comprises a yoke (106) for fastening to one of the support arms. Such limitation is clearly described on page 5, paragraph 22, lines 24-26 and is shown in Figures 1, 4, and 5A as defined by elements 108, 110, and 112.

6. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal are:

- (1) Claims 5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
- (2) Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,971,104 of Woller.

7. ARGUMENT

(1) Rejection of Claims 5 and 13 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 5 and 13 stand rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner has erroneously rejected the Applicants' claims. Specifically, the Examiner was unclear as to how Claims 4 and 12, and by dependency Claims 5 and 13, further limit the rigid recitations of Claims 1 and 18. To advance prosecution, Applicants cancelled Claims 4 and 12 and amended Claims 5 and 13 to clarify what is claimed in an Amendment After Final pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116. The amendment was entered on November 1, 2005, but the claims still stand finally rejected. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5 and 13, in their current forms, are not indefinite.

(2) Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 19, and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over
U.S. Patent No. 5,971,104 of Woller

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,971,104 of Woller. The Examiner has erroneously rejected the Applicants' claims.

To be a valid 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection, a single reference must disclose each and every element of the claims. The rejection here is improper because the reference does not disclose each and every element of the claims.

Claims 1-3 and 6-7

Claims 1-3 and 6-7 (as Applicants cancelled Claim 4 in the Amendment after Final) are not anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller. Independent Claim 1 recites, "A foot engaging member for use with a climbing tree stand assembly including a platform and a support member attached to the platform, comprising: a mounting portion for attachment to the climbing tree stand assembly; and a rigid tail portion having a curved elongate body and extending away from the mounting portion" (emphasis added).

U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller does not disclose, teach, or suggest foot engaging members that have a rigid tail portion. Rather, U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller discloses foot engaging members that are a pair of stiff, flexible straps, which are not rigid, for providing the outdoorsman a mechanism to manipulate the foot-support assembly. U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller discloses "two or more flexible tensile members such as straps fashioned from woven fabric webs 34, each web having an end looped around the corresponding seat hook 32" (Col. 5, line 6 et al., emphasis added). Moreover, "The straps may be fashioned from suitable, conventional nylon web material.

One-inch wide nylon webbing is preferred since it has a stiffness that causes the strap to stand up presenting a loop for the outdoorsman. In addition, other materials such as cotton, dacron, synthetic polymers, and the like can be used for the foot straps 96, or the strap 66 of the seat assembly” (Col. 7, lines 41-44). Clearly, the straps of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller are flexible and tensile. Tensile can be defined as capable of tension, and tensile strength can be defined as resistance to rupture under tension (Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, unabridged). Rigid, devices, however are lacking or devoid of flexibility (Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, unabridged), and do not deform under load. The terms rigid and flexible are antonyms. The present application describes footholds that are rigid, and the prior art describes footholds that are flexible.

The Examiner’s position that the term “synthetic polymers,” as used in the present context, includes rigid plastic such as polyvinylchloride (PVC), is simply unfounded. As an aside, the Examiner uses a Wikipedia definition of the term “synthetic polymers” (a copy of which is included in the Evidence Appendix) to show that PVC is a synthetic polymer, but events in the news point out that Wikipedia may or may not be accurate, as Wikipedia allows non-reviewed material to be posted by outside contributors. Indeed, synthetic polymers, in certain forms can be flexible, and synthetic polymers in other forms can be rigid. Thus, synthetic polymers, like other materials including metals, can be rigid or flexible depending on how they are fabricated. The Examiner’s reliance on the type of material used for the footholds is misplaced. For example, a synthetic polymer that is long and thin could be flexible, just like a single strand of a steel cable is flexible. A synthetic polymer that is molded can be a hard, rigid structure, just as a steel beam is a hard, rigid

structure. However, there is simply no disclosure in U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller to support the notion that the synthetic polymers are rigid.

Moreover, the Examiner's position appears to be that the word "rigid" is synonymous with the word "stiff." In essence, the Examiner is removing the word "rigid" from the claims, and inserting the phrase "somewhat stiff," so that the claim reads on the prior art. The Examiner's position obviously is not sustainable.

The Examiner provided the Applicants with a dictionary definition of the word "rigid" as meaning "appearing stiff and unyielding" (Webster's 10th edition, emphasis added, a copy of which is included in the Evidence Appendix). It appears that the Examiner is simply ignoring the second part of the definition (the very definition that the Examiner relies on) of rigid in that not only are rigid devices stiff, but they are also unyielding. Under the Examiner's definition of rigid, a man's shirt collar would be considered rigid, for example. A man's shirt collar is somewhat stiff in that the collar can stand up under its own weight, but no one would consider a man's shirt collar to be rigid. If some relative small amount of force is applied to the shirt collar, it will yield and deform. Thus, a man's shirt collar is somewhat stiff, but it is certainly not rigid. Similarly, under the Examiner's definition, Jello® too would be considered rigid. Jello®, when chilled, has some stiffness to it so that it holds its shape, but Jello® is not rigid, as even a very slight amount of force would cause the Jello® to yield and deform. Those skilled in the art would not consider Jello® or a man's shirt collar, though both somewhat stiff, to be rigid.

Similarly, the flexible straps of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller are somewhat stiff, but they are not unyielding so as to be considered rigid. In fact, the straps of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller will yield and deform if force is applied to them,

just like a man's shirt collar and Jello®. Therefore, the flexible straps, just like a man's shirt collar and Jello®, are not rigid.

To the contrary, the foot engaging members of the present application are both stiff and unyielding when force is applied, and are thus rigid, which is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller. Thus, Claim 1 is not anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104. Accordingly, allowance of Claim 1, and by dependency, Claims 2-3 and 6-7, is respectfully requested.

Claim 5

Claim 5 is not anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller. Claim 5 recites, "The foot engaging member of Claim 1, wherein the foot engaging member comprises substantially rigid molded plastic." U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller does not disclose, teach, or suggest a foot engaging member comprising a substantially rigid molded plastic. Rather, as stated herein, the foot engaging member of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller comprises "two or more flexible tensile members," which obviously are not constructed of rigid molded plastic. Accordingly, allowance of Claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-11

Claims 8-11 are not anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller. Claim 8 recites, "A climbing tree stand assembly comprising: a platform; a pair of support arms attached to the platform; and a pair of rigid footholds attached to the platform or the support arms and extending generally over the platform" (emphasis added).

U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller does not disclose, teach, or suggest a climbing tree stand assembly having a pair of rigid footholds. Rather, as stated herein, the

footholds of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller comprises “two or more flexible tensile members,” which obviously are not rigid. Thus, though the footholds of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller are stiff, they certainly are not rigid. Accordingly, allowance of Claim 8, and by dependency, Claims 9-11, is respectfully requested.

Claim 13

Claim 13 is not anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller. Claim 13 recites, “The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 11, wherein the footholds each comprise a molded plastic body.” U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller does not disclose, teach, or suggest a pair of footholds each comprising a substantially rigid molded plastic. Rather, as stated herein, the footholds of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller comprise “two or more flexible tensile members,” which obviously is not a molded plastic body. Accordingly, allowance of Claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-17

Claims 14-17 are not anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller. Claim 14 recites, “In a climbing tree stand including a platform and a pair of support arms attached to the platform, the climbing tree stand for use by a user, the improvement therein comprising: a pair of rigid foothold devices attached to the platform or the support arms” (emphasis added).

U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller does not disclose, teach, or suggest climbing tree stand assembly having an improvement comprising a pair of rigid foothold devices. Rather, as stated herein, the foothold devices of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller comprises “two or more flexible tensile members,” which obviously are not rigid. Thus, though the foothold devices of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller are stiff,

they certainly are not rigid. Accordingly, allowance of Claim 14, and by dependency, Claims 15-17, is respectfully requested.

Claim 19

Claim 19 recites, "The improvement of Claim 17 wherein the rigid foothold devices comprise a molded plastic body." U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller does not disclose, teach, or suggest a pair of rigid foothold devices comprising a substantially rigid molded plastic. Rather, as stated herein, the footholds of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller comprise "two or more flexible tensile members," which obviously is not a molded plastic body. Accordingly, allowance of Claim 13 is respectfully requested.

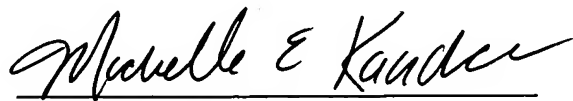
Claim 20

Claim 20 recites, "The improvement of Claim 17 wherein the attachment portion of the rigid foothold devices comprises a yoke for fastening to one of the support arms." U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller does not disclose, teach, or suggest a foothold device having a yoke for fastening the foothold to one of the support arms. Rather, the foothold devices of U.S. Patent Number 5,971,104 of Woller comprise "two or more flexible tensile members such as straps fashioned from woven fabric webs 34, each web having an end looped around the corresponding seat hook 32" (Col. 5, line 6 et al.), which loop obviously is not a yoke. Accordingly, allowance of Claim 13 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above and the attached appendices, the pending grounds of rejection cannot be maintained and all pending claims must be allowed. Any communication that may expedite allowance should be directed to Applicants' undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle E. Kandcer", written over a horizontal line.

Michelle E. Kandcer
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8. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A foot engaging member for use with a climbing tree stand assembly including a platform and a support member attached to the platform, comprising:
 - a mounting portion for attachment to the climbing tree stand assembly; and
 - a rigid tail portion having a curved elongate body and extending away from the mounting portion.
2. The foot engaging member of Claim 1, wherein the mounting portion is configured to be attached to the support member of the climbing tree stand assembly.
3. The foot engaging member of Claim 2, wherein the tail portion is configured to extend generally downwardly toward the platform of the tree stand assembly.
4. (Cancelled)
5. The foot engaging member of Claim 1, wherein the foot engaging member comprises substantially rigid molded plastic.
6. The foot engaging member of Claim 1, wherein the mounting portion is configured to secure the foot engaging member to either the support member or to the platform.
7. The foot engaging member of Claim 6, wherein the mounting portion is secured to the support member with a fastener.

8. A climbing tree stand assembly comprising:
 - a platform;
 - a pair of support arms attached to the platform; and
 - a pair of rigid footholds attached to the platform or the support arms and extending generally over the platform.
9. The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 8, wherein the pair of footholds each comprise a curved elongate body portion and a clamping portion for attaching to either the platform or the support arms.
10. The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 9, wherein clamping portions are attached to the support arms.
11. The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 9, wherein the curved elongate body portions extend generally over the platform.
12. (Cancelled)
13. The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 11, wherein the footholds each comprise a molded plastic body.

14. In a climbing tree stand including a platform and a pair of support arms attached to the platform, the climbing tree stand for use by a user, the improvement therein comprising:

a pair of rigid foothold devices attached to the platform or the support arms.

15. The improvement of Claim 14 wherein the rigid foothold devices extend generally between the support arms and the platform.

16. The improvement of Claim 14 wherein the rigid foothold devices are attached to the support arms and extend toward the platform.

17. The improvement of Claim 14 wherein the rigid foothold devices comprise a curved elongate body portion and an attachment portion for attaching to either the platform or the support arms.

18. (Cancelled)

19. The improvement of Claim 17 wherein the rigid foothold devices comprise a molded plastic body.

20. The improvement of Claim 17 wherein the attachment portion of the rigid foothold devices comprises a yoke for fastening to one of the support arms.

9. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No evidence pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 was entered by the Examiner and relied upon the Appellant in the appeal. Other evidence entered by the Examiner includes a Wikipedia definition of “synthetic polymer” and a Webster’s 10th edition dictionary definition of the word “rigid.” Copies of these definitions are attached hereto.

Synthetic polymer



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Synthetic polymers are often referred to as "plastics", such as the well-known polyethylene and nylon. However, most of them can be classified in at least three main categories: thermoplastics, thermosets and elastomers.

Man-made polymers are used in a bewildering array of applications: food packaging, films, fibers, tubing, pipes, etc. The personal care industry also uses polymers to aid in texture of products, binding, and moisture retention (e.g. in hair gel and conditioners).

Examples

A non-exhaustive list of these ubiquitous materials includes:

- acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS)
- polyamide (PA)
- polybutadiene
- poly(butylene terephthalate) (PBT)
- polycarbonate (PC)
- poly(ether sulphone) (PES, PES/PEES)
- poly(ether ether ketone)s (PEEK, PES/PEEK)
- polyethylene (PE)
- poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG)
- poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET)
- polyimide
- polypropylene (PP)
- polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)
- polystyrene (PS)
- styrene acrylonitrile (SAN)
- poly(trimethylene terephthalate) (PTT)
- polyurethane (PU)
- polyvinylchloride (PVC)
- polyvinylidenedifluoride (PVDF)
- poly(vinyl pyrrolidone) (PVP)

Brand names

These polymers are often better known through their brand names, for instance:

- Kevlar
- Kynar, e.g. PVDF
- Mylar, e.g. polyethylene terephthalate
- Nylon, e.g. polyamide 6,6
- Rilsan, e.g. polyamide 11 & 12
- Teflon, e.g. PTFE
- Ultem, e.g. polyimide
- Vectran
- Viton
- Zylon

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synthetic_polymer"

Categories: Polymers

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stick shift *n* (1959): a manually operated gearshift for a motor vehicle mounted on the floor
stick-tight \stik-'tilt/ *n* (ca. 1884): BUR MARI GOLD
stick-to-it-ive-ness \stik-'tū-iv-nəs/ *n* [fr. the phrase *stick to it*] (1867): dogged perseverance: TENACITY
stick-um \sti-kəm/ *n* [stick + -um (prob. alter. of 'em them)] (ca. 1909): a substance that adheres or causes adhesion
stick-up \stik-'ap/ *n* (1904): a robbery at gunpoint: HOLDUP
stick-up *vi* (15c): to stand upright or on end: PROTRUDE ~ *vt*: to stick up at gunpoint — **stick up for**: to speak or act in defense of: SUPPORT
stick-weed \stik-'wēd/ *n* (1743): any of several plants (as a beggar's-weed) with adhesive seeds
stick-work \stik-'wɜrk/ *n* (1903): the use of one's stick in offensive and defensive techniques (as in hockey)
sticky \sti-'ki/ *adj* **stick-ier**; -est (ca. 1735) 1 *a*: ADHESIVE 2 (1) VISCOUS, GLUEY (2): coated with a sticky substance 2: HUMID, MUDDY; also: CLAMMY 3: tending to stick 4 *a*: DISAGREABLE, UNPLEASANT *b*: AWKWARD, STIFF *c*: DIFFICULT, PROBLEMATIC 5: excessively sentimental: CLOYING — **stick-ily** \sti-'ki-lē/ *adv* — **stick-iness** \sti-'ki-nəs/ *n*
sticky wicket *n* (1926): a difficult or delicate problem or situation
stick-shun \stik-'shən/ *n* [static + friction] (1946): the force required to cause one body in contact with another to begin to move
stiff \stif/ *adj* [ME *stif*, fr. OE *stif*; akin to MD *stiff*, L *stipare* to press together, Gk *stibein* to tread on] (bef. 12c) 1 *a*: not easily bent: RIGID *b*: lacking in suppleness or responsiveness (~ muscles); impeded in movement — used of a mechanism *d*: DRUNK *la* 2 *a*: FIRM, RESOLUTE *b*: STUBBORN, UNYIELDING *c*: PROUD *d* (1) marked by reserve or decorum (2): lacking in ease or grace 3: STILTED 3: hard fought: PUGNACIOUS, SHARP 4 *a* (1): exerting great force (a ~ wind) (2): FORCEFUL, VIGOROUS *b*: POTENT (a ~ dose) 5: of a dense or glutinous consistency: THICK 6 *a*: HARSH, SEVERE (a ~ penalty) *b*: ARDUOUS, RUGGED (~ terrain) 7: not easily heeled over by an external force (as the wind) (a ~ ship) 8: EXPENSIVE, STEEP (paid a ~ price) — **stiff-ish** \sti-'fish/ *adj* — **stiff-ly** *adv* — **stiff-ness** *n*
syn STIFF, RIGID, INFLEXIBLE mean difficult to bend. STIFF may apply to any degree of this condition (stretching will prevent your muscles from becoming stiff). RIGID applies to something so stiff that it cannot be bent without breaking (a rigid surfboard). INFLEXIBLE stresses lack of suppleness or pliability (ski boots with inflexible soles).
stiff *adj* (13c) 1: in a stiff manner: STIFFLY 2: to an extreme degree: SEVERELY (scared ~) (bored ~)
stiff *n* (ca. 1859) 1: CORPSE 2 *a*: TRAMP, BUM *b*: HAND, LABORER *c*: PERSON (a lucky ~) 3: FLOP, FAILURE
stiff *vt* (1950) 1 *a*: to refuse to pay or tip (~ed the doctor for the fee) (~ed the waiter) *b*: CHEAT (~ed him in a business deal) *c*: STICK 7a (~ed us with the bar bill); 2: SNUB 3 (~ed sports writers after the game)
stiff-arm \stif-'arm/ *vb* or *n* (1909): STRAIGHT-ARM
stiff-en \sti-'fən/ *vb* **stiff-ened**; **stiff-en-ing** \sti-'fə-niŋ/ *vt* (15c): to make stiff or stiffer. ~ *vi*: to become stiff or stiffer — **stiff-en-er** \sti-'fə-nər/ *n*
stiff-necked \stif-'nek/ *adj* (1526) 1: HAUGHTY, STUBBORN 2: STILTED
stiff upper lip *n* [fr. the phrase *keep a stiff upper lip*] (1815): a steady and determined attitude or manner in the face of trouble — **stiff-upper-lip** *adj*
stifle \stif-'l/ *n* [ME] (14c): the joint next above the hock in the hind leg of a quadruped (as a horse or dog) corresponding to the human knee — see HORSE illustration
stifle *vb* **stifled**; **stifling** \stif-'liŋ/ *vt* (1513): (1) *a*: to kill by depriving of oxygen: SUFFOCATE *b* (1): SMOOTHER (2) *a*: to cut off (as the voice or breath) *b*: to withhold from circulation or expression: REPRESS (~ed out anger) *c*: DETER, DISCOURAGE ~ *vi*: to become suffocated by or as if by lack of oxygen
stifler \stif-'l/ *n* [fr. *stifle*] (15c) 1: **stiflingly** \stif-'liŋ-lē/ *adv*
stigma \stig-'mā/ *n*, *pl* **stig-ma-ta** \stig-'mā-tā/ *n*, *pl* **stig-ma-ta** [L *stigma*, fr. Gk *stigma*, a scar left by a hot iron more at STICK] (ca. 1593) 1 *a*: a scar left by a hot iron 2 *a*: a mark of shame or discredit: STAIN *c*: an identifying mark or characteristic; *specif*: a specific diagnostic sign of a disease 2 *a*: a *stigmata* *pl*: bodily marks or pains resembling the wounds of a crucified Christ and, sometimes, accompanying religious ecstasy *b*: PETECHIA 3 *a*: a small spot, scar, or opening on a plant or animal *b*: the usu. apical part of the pistil of a flower which receives the pollen grains and on which they germinate — see FLOWER illustration — **stigma-tal** \stig-'māl/ *adj*
stig-ma-ter-ol \stig-'mā-tə-rōl/ *n* [NL *Physostigma* (genus including the Calabar bean) + ISV *sterol*] (1907): a crystalline sterol C₂₇H₄₆O obtained esp. from the oils of Calabar beans and soybeans
stig-ma-tic \stig-'mā-tik/ *n* (1594): one marked with stigmata
stigmatic *adj* (1607) 1: having or conveying a social stigma 2: of or relating to supernatural stigmata 3: ANASTIGMATIC — used esp. of a bundle of light rays intersecting at a single point — **stigmati-cal-ly** \stig-'mā-tik-lē/ *adv*
stig-ma-tist \stig-'mā-tist/ *n* (1607): STIGMATIC
stig-ma-tize \stig-'mā-tīz/ *vt*, *ti-zed*; **ti-zing** (1585) 1 *a*: *archaic* *b*: BRAND *b*: to describe or identify in opprobrious terms 2: to mark with stigmata — **stig-ma-ti-za-tion** \stig-'mā-tə-'zā-shən/ *n*
stilbene \stil-'ben/ *n* [ISV, fr. Gk *stilbein* to glitter] (ca. 1868): an aromatic hydrocarbon C₁₄H₁₂ used as a phosphor and in making dyes; also: a compound derived from stilbene
stil-bes-trōl \stil-'bēs-'trōl/ *n* [stilbene + estrus + -ol] (1938) 1 *a*: a crystalline synthetic derivative C₁₄H₁₂O₂ of stilbene that differs from the related diethylstilbestrol in lack of the ethyl groups and in possession of but slight estrogenic activity 2: DIETHYLSTILBESTROL
stil-bite \stil-'bit/ *n* [F, fr. Gk *stilbein*] (1815): a mineral consisting of a hydrous silicate of aluminum, calcium, and sodium and often occurring in sheaflike aggregations of crystals
stille \sti-'le/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *stigel*; akin to OE *stæger* stair — more at STAIR] (bef. 12c): a step or set of steps for passing over a fence or wall; also: TURNSTILE

stille *n* [prob. fr. D *stijl* post] (1678): one of the vertical members in a frame or panel into which the secondary members are fitted
stilet-to \sti-'le-(l)to/ *n*, *pl* -tos or -toes [It. dim. of *stilo* stylus, dagger; fr. L *stilus* stylus — more at STYLE] (1611) 1: a slender dagger with a blade thick in proportion to its breadth 2: a pointed instrument for piercing holes for eyelets or embroidery 3: STILETTO HEEL
stiletto heel *n* (1953): a high thin heel on women's shoes that is narrower than a spike heel
still \stil/ *adj* [ME *stille*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *stilli* still and perh. to OE *steall* stall — more at STALL] (bef. 12c) 1 *a*: devoid of or abstaining from motion *b* *archaic*: SEDENTARY *c*: not effervescent (~ wine) *d* (1): of, relating to, or being a static photograph as contrasted with a motion picture (2): designed for taking still photographs (a ~ camera) (3): engaged in taking still photographs (a ~ photographer) 2 *a*: uttering no sound: QUIET *b*: SUBDUED, MUTED 3 *a*: CALM, TRANQUIL *b*: free from noise or turbulence — **still-ness** *n*
still *vi* (bef. 12c): to become motionless or silent: QUIET ~ *vt* 1 *a*: ALLAY, CALM *b*: to put an end to: SETTLE 2: to arrest the motion of 3: SILENCE
still *adv* (bef. 12c) 1: without motion (sit ~) 2 *archaic* *a*: ALWAYS, CONTINUALLY *b*: in a progressive manner: INCREASINGLY 3 — used as a function word to indicate the continuance of an action or condition (~ lives there) (drink it while it's ~ hot) 4: in spite of that: NEVERTHELESS (those who take the greatest care ~ make mistakes) 5 *a*: EVEN 2c (a ~ more difficult problem) *b*: YET *la*
still *n* (13c) 1: QUIET, SILENCE 2: a static photograph; *specif*: a photograph of actors or scenes of a motion picture for publicity or documentary purposes
still *vb* [ME *stille*, short for *distillen* to distill] (13c): DISTILL
still *n* (1533): 1: DISTILLERY 2: apparatus used in distillation, comprising either the chamber in which the vaporization is carried out or the entire equipment
still alarm *n* (1875): a fire alarm transmitted (as by telephone call) without sounding the signal apparatus
still and all *adv* (1829): NEVERTHELESS, STILL
still-birth \stil-'bɜrth, -'bɜrth/ *n* (1785): the birth of a dead fetus
still-born \stil-'bɔrn/ *adj* (1593) 1: dead at birth 2: failing from the start: ABORTIVE (a ~ venture) — **still-born** \stil-'bɔrn/ *n*
still-hunt \stil-'hʌnt/ *vi* (1858): to ambush or stalk a quarry; esp.: to pursue game noiselessly usu. without a dog. ~ *vt*: to lie in wait for; approach by stealth
still hunt *n* (1828): a quiet pursuing or ambushing of game
still life *n*, *pl* still lifes (1695) 1: a picture consisting predominantly of inanimate objects 2: the category of graphic arts concerned with inanimate subject matter
still-man \stil-'mən/ *n* (ca. 1864): one who owns or operates a still
still-room \stil-'rʊm, -'rʊm/ *n* [still] (ca. 1710) *Brit*: a room connected with the kitchen where liqueurs, preserves, and cakes are kept and beverages (as tea) are prepared
still water *n* (1832): a part of a stream where no current is visible
still-ly \stil-'lē/ *adv* (bef. 12c): in a calm manner: QUIETLY
stilly \sti-'lē/ *adj* [still + -ly] (1776): STILL, QUIET
stilt \stilt/ *n* [ME *stille*; akin to OHG *stelza* stilt] (15c) 1 *a*: one of two poles each with a rest or strap for the foot used to elevate the wearer above the ground in walking *b*: a pile or post serving as one of the supports of a structure above ground or water level 2 *pl* also *stilt*: any of various notably long-legged 3-toed shorebirds (genera *Himantopus* and *Cladorhynchus*) that are related to the avocets, frequent inland ponds and marshes, and nest in small colonies
stilt *vt* (1649): to raise on or as if on stilts
stilted \stilt-'təd/ *adj* (1820) 1 *a*: POMPOUS, LOFTY *b*: FORMAL, STIFF 2: having the curve beginning at some distance above the impost (a ~ arch) — **stilt-ed-ly** *adv* — **stilt-ed-ness** *n*
Stilton \stil-'tən/ *n* [Stilton, Huntingdonshire, England] (1826): a blue-veined cheese with wrinkled rind made of whole cows' milk enriched with cream
stime \stim/ *n* [ME (northern dial.)] (14c) chiefly Scot & Irish: GLIMMER; also: GLIMPSE
stim-u-lant \stim-'yā-lənt/ *n* (ca. 1728) 1: an agent (as a drug) that produces a temporary increase of the functional activity or efficiency of an organism or any of its parts 2: STIMULUS 3: an alcoholic beverage — not used technically — **stimulant** *adj*
stim-u-late \stāt- / *vb* -lat-ed; -lat-ing [L *stimulus*, pp. of *stimulare*, fr. *stimulus* goad; perh. akin to L *stilus* stem, stylus — more at STYLE] *vt* (1619) 1: to excite to activity or growth or to greater activity: ANIMATE, AROUSE 2 *a*: to function as a physiological stimulus to *b*: to arouse or affect by a stimulant (as a drug) ~ *vi*: to act as a stimulant or stimulus *syn* see PROVOKE — **stim-u-la-tion** \stim-'yā-lā-shən/ *n* — **stim-u-la-tive** \stim-'yā-lā-tiv/ *adj* — **stim-u-la-tor** \stāt-tər/ *n* — **stim-u-la-to-ry** \stāt-tōr-ē, -tōr-ē/ *adj*
stim-u-lus \stim-'yā-ləs/ *n*, *pl* -li \stī-'lī/ [L] (1684): something that arouses or incites to activity; as *a*: INCENTIVE *b*: STIMULANT 1 *c*: an agent (as an environmental change) that directly influences the activity of a living organism or one of its parts (as by exciting a sensory organ or evoking muscular contraction or glandular secretion)
sting \stɪŋ/ *vb* **stung** \stʌŋ/; **sting-ing** \stɪŋ-'iŋ/ [ME, fr. OE *stingan*; akin to ON *stinga* to sting and prob. to Gk *stachys* spike of grain, *stochos* target, aim] *vt* (bef. 12c) 1: to prick painfully; as *a*: to pierce or wound with a poisonous or irritating process *b*: to affect with sharp quick pain or smart (hail stung their faces) 2: to cause to suffer acutely (stung with remorse) 3: OVERCHARGE, CHEAT ~ *vi* 1: to wound one with or as if with a sting 2: to feel a keen burning pain or smart; also: to cause such pain — **sting-ing-ly** \stɪŋ-'iŋ-lē/ *adv*
sting *n* (bef. 12c) 1 *a*: the act of stinging; *specif*: the thrust of a stinger into the flesh *b*: a wound or pain caused by or as if by stinging 2: STINGER 3: a sharp or stinging element, force, or quality 4

\st' abut \st' kitten, F table \st' further \st' ash \st' ace \st' mop, mar
\st' out, \st' chin \st' bet \st' easy \st' go \st' hit \st' ice \st' job
\st' sing \st' go \st' law \st' boy \st' thin \st' the \st' foot \st' foot
\st' yet \st' vision \st' k, c, ce, e, u, v, \st' see Guide to Pronunciation

10. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no related proceedings or decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph 37 C.F. R. §41.39(c)(1)(ii).

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